

7th September 2017

Dear Parents

Geography Field Work 2017-18

The A-level course that your son/daughter will be undertaking emphasizes the need for practical work in the field, as well as study in school; fieldwork and geographical skills are a compulsory part of the course, and a minimum of four days of field work is required. This gives the students the necessary experience to then carry out their own field work investigation which will account for 20% of the A-level. The Geography Department can provide some of the practice for this using the local area but it has been customary for many years to encourage students to attend a centre run by the Field Studies Council. This organisation runs Geography field weeks in a number of geographically interesting areas, and this year we are returning to the Rhyd-y-Creiau Centre in Betws-y-coed, Snowdonia.

The benefits to be gained by these field weeks are wide-ranging. Snowdonia offers a number of landscapes very different from the Tonbridge area, giving the A level student an opportunity to experience and study these at first hand. The Field Studies Council has an excellent reputation for the quality of its courses, with expert teachers who know how to use their knowledge of areas such as Snowdonia to enhance A level studies. The centres are well-stocked with equipment such as flow meters, meteorological equipment and computers, much of which is not available in any state school. In my experience, few students have been disappointed by the week and the vast majority have returned full of praise.

As the field centre gets booked up so quickly, I have made a provisional booking for the week of **16th – 23rd March 2018**. The cost of the week is likely to be over £500, which includes accommodation, food, course fees, travel to and from the centre, and local travel.

In order that I can make a firm booking, I need to know the number of those who wish to go. Would you kindly, therefore, complete the slip below, indicating whether or not you wish your son/daughter to attend the course. If attending would cause genuine difficulty for any reason other than financial, please get in touch with me. If the difficulty is of a financial nature, please contact our School Business Manager, Mrs Clare Morey (cmorey@judd.kent.sch.uk) in confidence to discuss what assistance may be available, as it is school policy that no student should miss a curriculum-based trip for financial reasons. Once I have confirmed the number with the centre, I will write to you with a more accurate cost and asking for a deposit (non-refundable) of £75, with the remainder to be paid in instalments in November and February 2018. All payments will be posted on Joinos, our online payment system.

I have also booked **Thursday 28th and Friday 29th September** for a day of river work which is within school hours. This will only entail the cost of using the minibuses which will be funded by the department.

If you wish to know more, please get in touch with me as soon as possible. Would you please fill in the return slip attached so that I can either confirm or amend the provisional bookings.

Yours sincerely

M C Yarham
Head of Geography

✂

PLEASE RETURN TO Ms YARHAM BY FRIDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

I do / do not* wish my son/daughter _____ to attend the
Geography field week in March 2018.

Signed: _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian

